

488 MILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND  
REFORMEE

would thereby kill the Affair, put It out of the way, "before dealing with, the religious orders. The right course would have been to proceed against the compromised members of the General Staff, but after the Kennes verdict M. Waldeck-Eousseau had not the courage to do so. Besides, in that matter he was largely in the hands of his own "War Minister, General de Gallifet. Trance was committed to the Amnesty long before General Andrf arose to enforce obedience in the higher ranks of the army. And thus for political reasons a crowning iniquity was perpetrated.

Impunity was assured to the Merciers, the Boisdeffres, the Billots, and all the others. At the most they lost their military positions. Every criminal action in the Affair was stopped and prohibited by the Amnesty Bill, which became law in November, 1900. The privileges of parties in civil actions were alone reserved, though at the same time Captain Dreyfus retained the right to apply for further revision and even rehabilitation whenever he might discover the necessary new facts. At that moment it was scarcely imagined in high places that he would do so. M.

Waldeek-Rousseau, like many another "before him, fancied that he had indeed killed the Affair; but at the time of writing these lines it is once more before the Cour de Cassation.

It should be added that, prior to the

Amnesty, Zola had been acquitted of the charge of traducing Judet <sup>cf Le</sup> of Petit Journal," who had so foully attacked his father's memory; and had moreover secured a judgment condemning the unprincipled journalist to pay Mm five thousand francs<sup>1</sup> damages. Judet, however, carried the case to the Appeal Court, and it long remained in abeyance. Finally,